

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 039068

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. BERLIN AND INNER-GERMAN RELATIONS

ON FEBRUARY 17, AMBASSADOR STOESEL MET WITH STATE MINISTER WISCHNEWSKI TO DISCUSS BERLIN AND INNER-GERMAN RELATIONS. ACCORDING TO WISCHNEWSKI, RECENT GDR ACTIONS AFFECTING THE FRG AND BERLIN STEM FROM THE CONCERN OF EAST GERMAN AUTHORITIES OVER INTERNAL DISCIPLINE. THE GDR WISHES TO LIMIT CONTACT BETWEEN EAST AND WEST GERMANS AND REDUCE THE FUNCTIONS AND ACCESSIBILITY OF THE FRG PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OFFICE IN EAST BERLIN.

ON WEST BERLIN, WISCHNEWSKI SAID:

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--MORALE IS NOT AS HIGH AS DURING THE YEARS OF EAST-WEST CONFRONTATION.

--WAYS SHOULD BE FOUND TO IMPROVE THE PSYCHOLOGICAL CLIMATE WITHOUT SEEKING UNNECESSARY CONFRONTATION WITH THE SOVIETS.

--PRIVATE INVESTMENT, RATHER THAN INCREASED FEDERAL PRESENCE, SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED. (CONFIDENTIAL) BONN 3041, 2/18.

2. BREZHNEV TO FAVOR FRANCE WITH A VISIT

EMBASSY PARIS REPORTS THE FEBRUARY 18 ANNOUNCEMENT THAT BREZHNEV WILL VISIT FRANCE "BEFORE JULY" MAY BE A SOVIET FILLIP TO GISCARD FOR KEEPING SILENT ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE. A QUAI OFFICIAL HAS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT DOMESTIC PRESSURE IS MOUNTING FOR THE GOF TO TAKE A TOUGHER HUMAN RIGHTS STANCE. HE NONETHELESS PREDICTS FRANCE WILL SCRUPULOUSLY CONTINUE TO AVOID MAKING ANY COMMENTS WHICH THE SOVIETS COULD CONSTRUER AS INTERFERENCE IN THEIR INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

EMBASSY COMMENT: IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE IF THE GOF CAN RESIST THIS PRESSURE, WHICH IS NOW COMING MOST VOCALLY FROM THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY. IN OUR VIEW, IT CANNOT FOR LONG, BREZHNEV VISIT OR NO. (CONFIDENTIAL) PARIS 5168, 2/19.

3. BOKASSA LIKES US

CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPEROR BOKASSA IN A FEBRUARY 16 TALK WITH AMBASSADOR QUANTON STRESSED HIS OPPOSITION TO RADICAL AND SOVIET INFLUENCE IN AFRICA AND HIS SUPPORT FOR THE WEST. BOKASSA SAID THAT HIS SUPPORT DESERVED CONFIDENTIAL

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RECOGNITION IN THE FORM OF INCREASED ECONOMIC AID, ADDING THAT LIMITED MILITARY ASSISTANCE WOULD ALSO BE WELCOMED.

AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: BOKASSA OBVIOUSLY ATTACHES CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO A FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF OUR RELATIONS. NONETHELESS, HIS ANTI-COMMUNIST VIEWS WILL NOT PREVENT HIM FROM NORMALIZING RELATIONS WITH THE COMMUNIST POWERS, PARTICULARLY IF THEY ARE WILLING TO AID THE EMPIRE. (CONFIDENTIAL) BANGUI 308, 2/18.
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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